

# RAJBALA

AMAR  
CHITRA  
KATHA

No 328 Rs. 4.00

प्राचीन  
चित्रकला संग्रहालय  
गोवर्धन, मुरादाबाद



TWO TALES FROM OLD

# **Amar Chitra Katha**

No. 328

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# **RAJBALA**

There are many who love to tell a story and many more who love to listen to one. And each time a story is retold, it acquires a new colour and a fresh dimension.

The grandmother who heard a story as a little girl from her grandmother, tells the same story to her grandchild but with a few embellishments of her own. The traveller from a distant land who happens to hear a story in the course of his travels, later tells it to his own people, modifying it to make it more dramatic or more acceptable to his audience. That is how stories which had first been told centuries ago have been kept alive and why we find recurring themes in the tales told in different regions separated by hundreds of miles.

This Chitra Katha retells two folktales from Sind, now in Pakistan.

We regret because of labour trouble we have not been able to bring out the issue dated February 15, 1985. Subscriptions will be adjusted accordingly.

Also because of this change in schedule the second issue of March and thereafter the second issue of every month will be the Mahabharata series in Amar Chitra Katha.

— Editor

**OUR NEXT RELEASE ON**

March 15, 1985

# **Mahabharata-1** **Veda Vyasa**

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# LAJBALA

ONE DAY, TWO HORSEMEN RODE TO THE PALACE  
OF RANA JASAT SINGH OF UDAIPUR...

PRASANTH  
CHITTINGO LIBRARY  
307

AND SOUGHT AN AUDIENCE WITH HIM.

SEND THEM  
IN.

WHEN THE YOUTHS STOOD BEFORE THE RANA—

WHO ARE  
YOU?

WE ARE RAIPUTS IN NEED OF  
WORK. MY NAME  
IS AJIT SINGH.

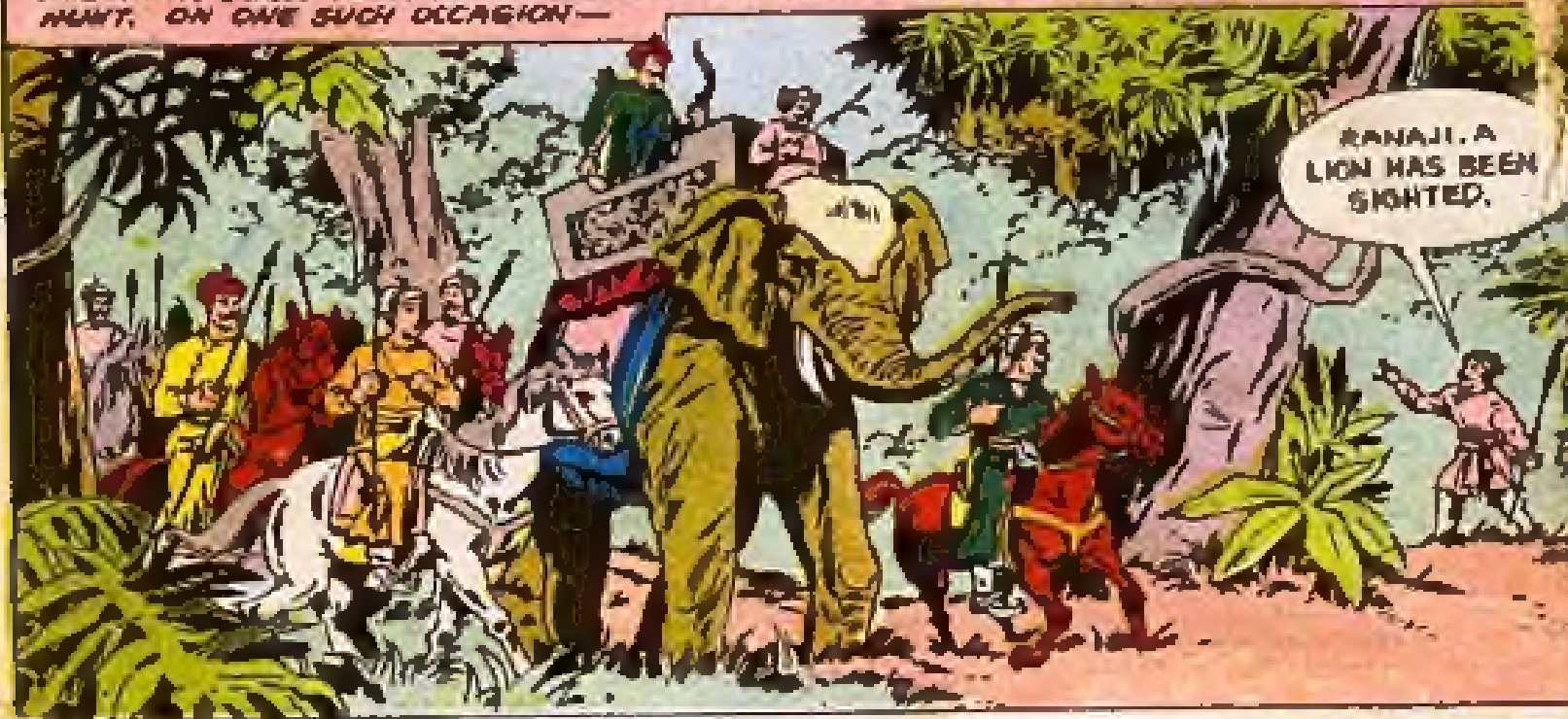
AND  
YOUR?

I AM GULAB  
SINGH, HIS  
BROTHER-IN-  
LAW.

VERY WELL. BOTH OF YOU MAY  
STAY HERE. YOU WILL BE  
PAID FIVE RUPEES A DAY  
FOR YOUR SERVICES.



THE RANA SOON TOOK TO THE NEWCOMERS AND THEY OFTEN ACCOMPANIED HIM ON THE HUNT. ON ONE SUCH OCCASION—



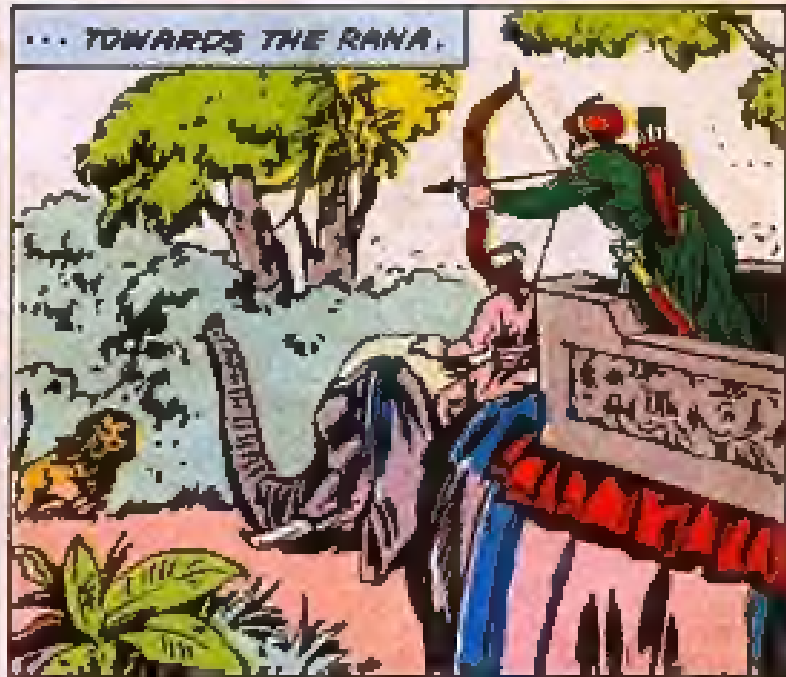
THE BEATERS CREATED A DIN TO BRING THE ANIMAL OUT INTO THE OPEN.



THE BEATERS BEGAN CLOSING IN FROM THREE SIDES AND DROVE THE ANIMAL...



... TOWARDS THE RANA.



THE LION SUDDENLY ROARED AND CHARGED AT THE RANA'S ELEPHANT.



TAKEN UNAWARES, THE RANA DROPPED HIS BOW AND ARROWS.



BEFORE THE LION COULD POUNCE ON THE RANA...



... GULAB SINGH'S SPEAR PIERCED IT.



WELL DONE, GULAB SINGH. YOU WILL BE REWARDED FOR THIS.

I ONLY DID MY DUTY, RANAJI.



LATER AT THE PALACE THE RANA PRESENTED A ROBE OF HONOUR TO GULAB SINGH.

GULAB SINGH, YOU SHALL NOW BE THE CAPTAIN OF MY GUARD.



FROM NOW ON YOU WILL BE IN CHARGE OF MY STATE PALACE.

I AM HONOURED, RANAJI, BUT... BUT... AJIT SINGH AND I...



THE RANA UNDERSTOOD.

AJIT SINGH SHALL ALSO BE A CAPTAIN OF MY GUARD. HE CAN LOOK AFTER MY SLEEPING APARTMENTS.





ONE COLD STORMY DAY, GULAB SINGH WHO WAS ON DUTY AT THE STATE PALACE SUDDENLY BROKE OUT INTO A SAD TUNE.

THE DARK RAIN POURS,  
THE RIVER ROARS  
THE LIGHTNINGS FLASH THE  
STORM GOD'S RE,  
THE RAIN-SOAKED GROUND  
GLEAMS ALL AROUND  
AND YET, WITHIN, MY HEART'S  
ON FIRE.

ON HEARING THIS AJIT SINGH REPLIED,

THE LORD IS JUST, IN HIM I TRUST  
HEAVEN WATCHES STILL THOUGH  
EARTH BE SLEEPING.  
SOME SIN DONE IN SOME FORMER  
LIFE  
IS NOW MY HEART FROM YOUR  
HEART KEEPING.

BEAUTIFUL OUT-  
POURINGS! BUT  
MYSTERIOUS.

NEITHER WAS AWARE THAT THE RANA'S WIFE  
HAD HEARD THEIR SONGS.

THAT NIGHT —

RAJAJI, OF THE TWO  
CAPTAINS OF YOUR  
GUARD ONE IS A  
WOMAN.

DO YOU MEAN  
GULAB SINGH AND  
AJIT SINGH?

YES,  
RAJAJI.

HA! HA! THEY ARE  
BROTHERS-IN-LAW.

RAJAJI, I MAY  
BE WRONG. STILL,  
THERE IS NO HARM  
IN QUESTIONING  
THEM.

VERY WELL IF  
YOU INSIST.

THE NEXT DAY, AS AJIT SINGH AND GULAB SINGH WERE GETTING READY TO LEAVE FOR THE PALACE, THEY HEARD A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.



THE RANA WOULD LIKE TO SEE BOTH OF YOU AT ONCE.



AT THE COURT —

DID YOU SEND FOR US, RANAJI?

YES. NOW ANSWER ME, TRUTHFULLY.



IS ONE OF YOU A WOMAN?



SPEAK OUT WITHOUT FEAR. I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR THE MAN WHO SAVED MY LIFE.





FORGIVE US, RANAJI. I AM AJIT SINGH. MY FATHER WAS RAJA AMAR SINGH OF UMARKOT.

OH!

MY FATHER'S LANDS WERE SEIZED BY THE RAJA OF SIND AND HE DIED A POOR MAN. I WAS BROUGHT UP BY MY WIDOWED MOTHER.

THEN, GULAB, YOU MUST BE THE WOMAN.

YES. I AM HIS WIFE, RAJBALA, THE DAUGHTER OF THAKUR PRATAP SINGH OF VISHALPUR.

THEN WHY ARE THE TWO OF YOU HERE?

WHEN WE WERE INFANTS, RAJBALA WAS BETROTHED TO ME.

AS I GREW UP, MY MOTHER TOO DIED. LONELY AND FORLORN, I SENT AN ELDERLY RELATIVE TO PRATAP SINGH TO REMIND HIM OF HIS PLEDGE.

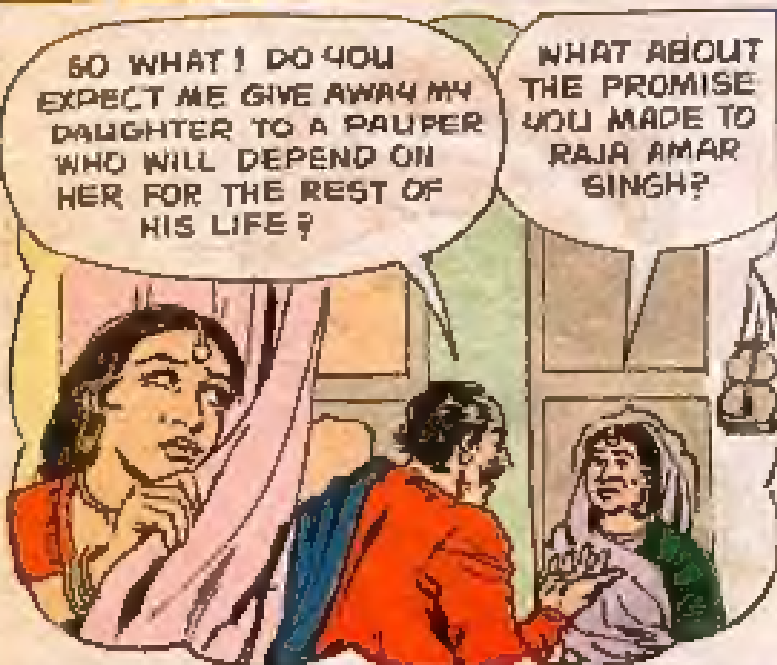


I WAS THERE WHEN HIS  
RELATIVE ARRIVED. MY  
FATHER'S REACTION  
SHOCKED ME.



THAT PAUPER AJIT SINGH  
HAS THE AUDACITY TO ASK  
FOR MY DAUGHTER'S  
HAND!

BUT I'VE  
HEARD HE IS  
BRAVE AND  
HANDSOME  
AND A TRUE  
RAJPUT.



SO WHAT! DO YOU  
EXPECT ME GIVE AWAY MY  
DAUGHTER TO A PAUPER  
WHO WILL DEPEND ON  
HER FOR THE REST OF  
HIS LIFE?

WHAT ABOUT  
THE PROMISE  
YOU MADE TO  
RAJA AMAR  
SINGH?



IT DOESN'T  
BEFIT A RAJPUT TO  
GO BACK ON HIS  
WORD.

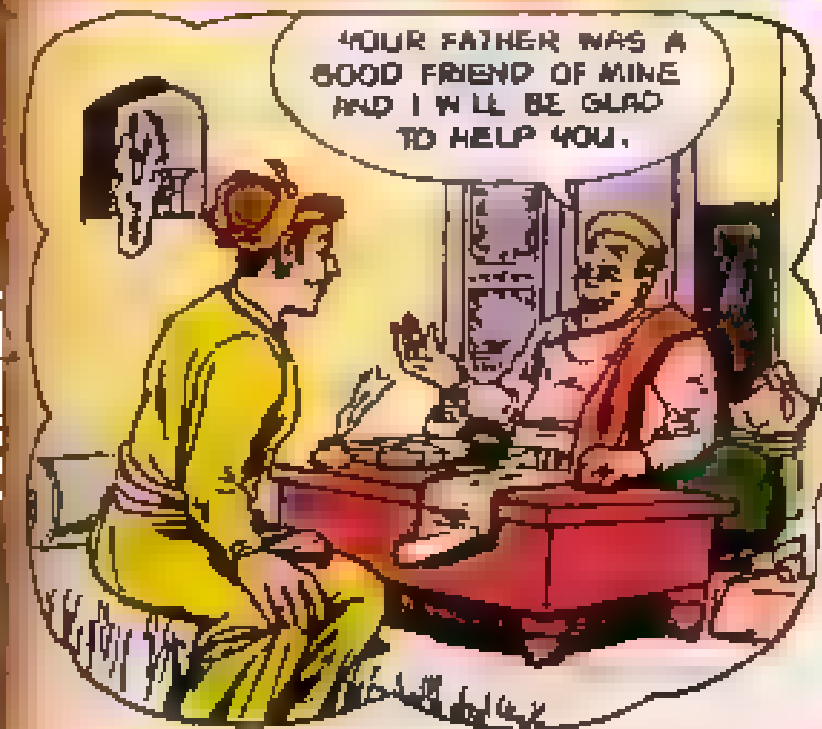
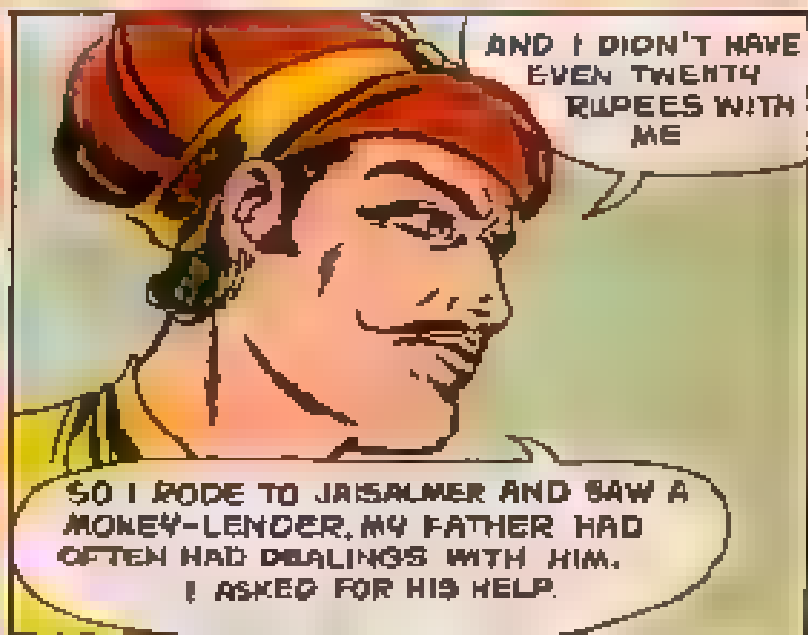
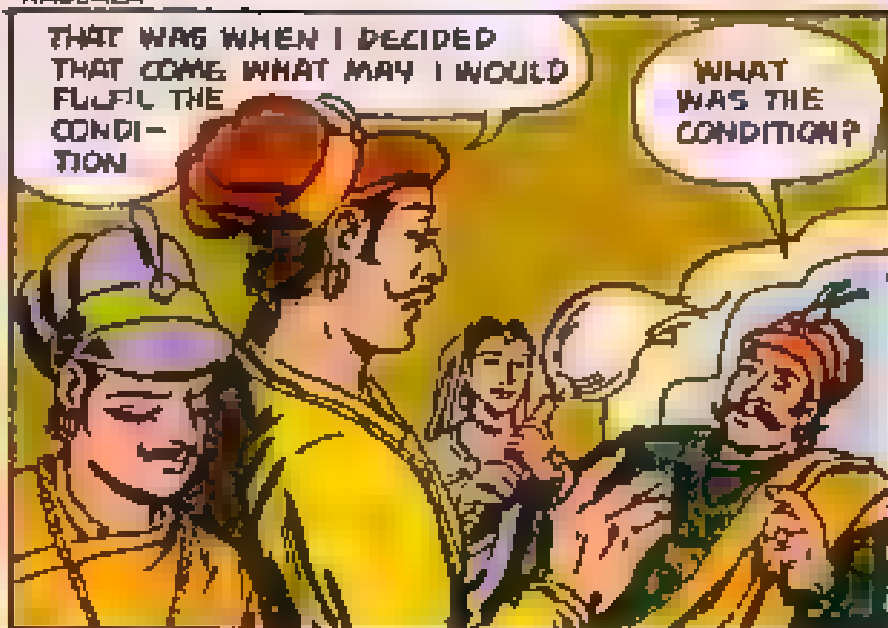


ALL RIGHT.  
I CAN'T GO BACK  
ON MY WORD.  
BUT...



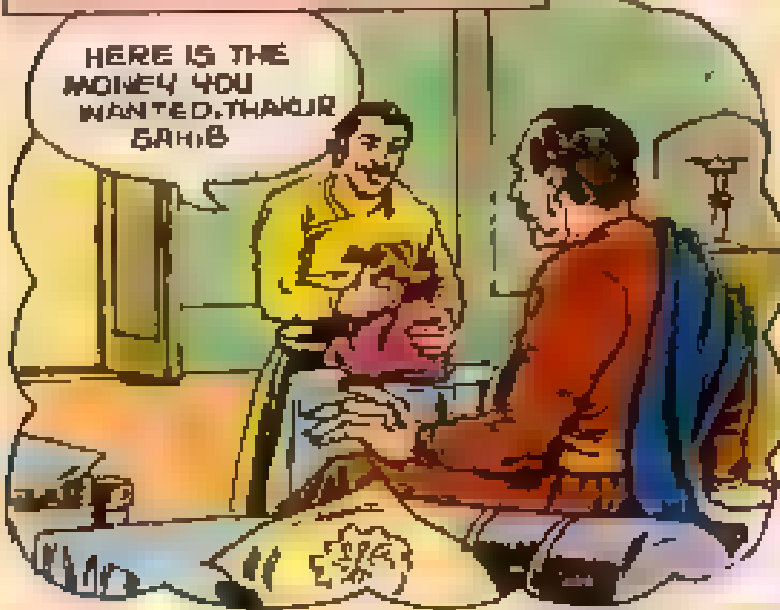
...I COULD SET A  
CONDITION WHICH HE  
WOULD NEVER BE  
ABLE TO FULFIL.

?





"I WENT TO VISHALPUR AND SOUGHT AN AUDIENCE WITH THE THAKUR"



HERE IS THE MONEY YOU WANTED, THAKUR SAHIB

"THE THAKUR WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE TURN OF EVENTS BUT HE COULD NOT GO BACK ON HIS WORD"

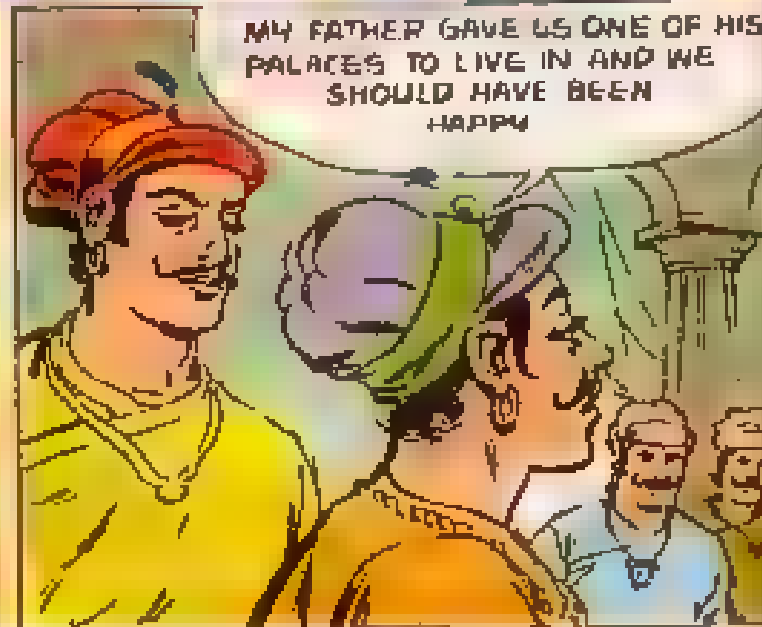


MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MARRIAGE



AND SO WE WERE MARRIED

AND THEN?



MY FATHER GAVE US ONE OF HIS PALACES TO LIVE IN AND WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY

"BUT AS THE DAYS WENT BY, I FOUND MY HUSBAND BECOMING MOODY AND WITHDRAWN"



"THEN ONE DAY I DECIDED TO FIND OUT WHAT THE MATTER WAS."



WHAT IS TROUBLING YOU?

NOTHING

HAVE I DONE  
SOMETHING  
WRONG? HAVE  
I LOST YOUR  
LOVE?

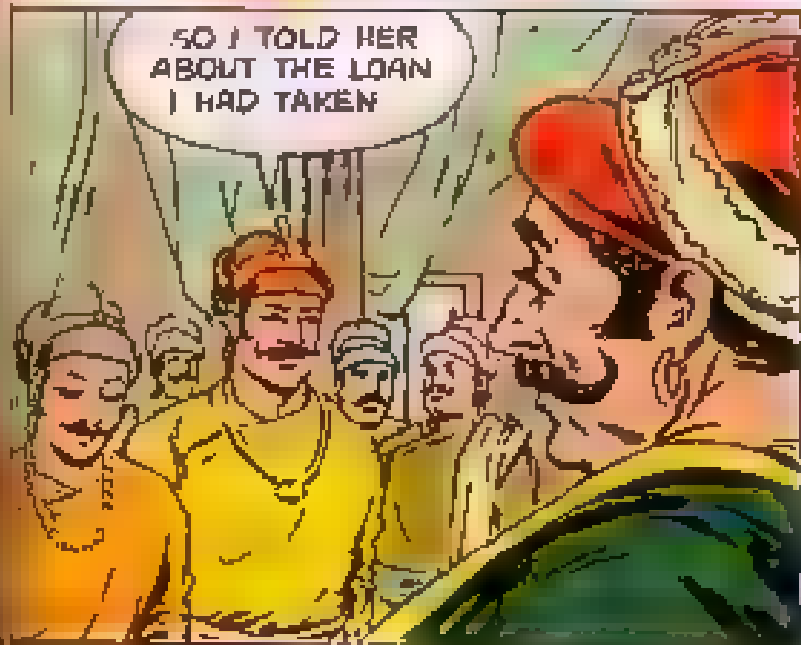
NO! NO!  
I LOVE YOU  
RAJBALA.  
BUT ..



BUT WHAT? I AM YOUR  
WIFE NOW YOU HAVE TO  
SHARE YOUR JOY AND  
SORROWS WITH ME  
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT  
IS WORRYING YOU.



SO I TOLD HER  
ABOUT THE LOAN  
I HAD TAKEN



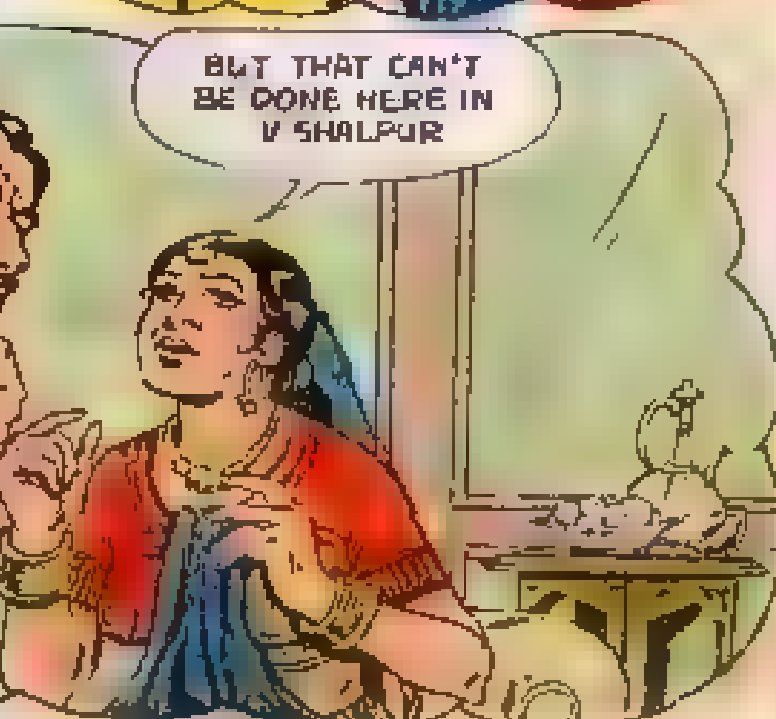
I WILL  
HAVE NO PEACE  
TILL I REPAY  
IT



I WILL HAVE TO  
EARN THE MONEY  
BY GETTING  
SOME WORK



BUT THAT CAN'T  
BE DONE HERE IN  
SHALPUR



I KNOW I WILL HAVE TO  
LOOK FOR WORK IN SOME  
OTHER KINGDOM BUT I CAN'T  
BEAR THE THOUGHT OF  
BEING AWAY FROM  
YOU

I WILL  
COME WITH  
YOU WHEREVER  
YOU GO!

BUT YOUR  
FATHER WILL  
NEVER AGREE  
TO IT

HE WILL  
GO WITHOUT  
HIS KNOWLEDGE  
THEN, TONIGHT  
ITSELF.

AND SO WE CAME  
HERE DISGUISED AS  
BROTHERS IN-LAW  
TO EARN TWENTY  
THOUSAND RUPEES  
TO REPAY A  
LOAN

WELL, YOU  
HAVE MORE THAN  
EARNED IT BY  
SAVING MY  
LIFE



THE RANA CALLED FOR A MAID

OUR GULAB IS TRULY  
A PRANARAKSHAK DEVI.  
GIVE HER THE ROBES  
AND JEWELS BEFITTING  
HER STATUS

HE CALLED FOR HIS TREASURER

BRING ME  
TWENTY THOUSAND  
RUPEES

WHEN THE MONEY WAS BROUGHT, THE RANA GAVE IT TO AJIT SINGH

REPAY THE LOAN  
WITH THIS MONEY

MAHARAJ!

THEN HE GAVE ONE OF HIS PALACES AND A LARGE ESTATE TO RAJBALA.

WHERE AJIT SINGH AND HIS COURAGEOUS, RESOURCEFUL  
WIFE, LIVED HAPPILY, TILL THE END OF THEIR DAYS

# BIR SINGH AND SUNDERBAI

BIR SINGH THE CROWN PRINCE OF VALLABHAPURA  
LOST TRAIL TO HIS UNARMED STATE. HE  
AND TRAIL HE DECIDED TO REST FOR A WHILE IN A  
GARDEN FULL OF SHADY TREES



SUDDENLY HE HEARD SOMEONE  
SING



BY THE TIME HE REACHED THE SPOT THE SONG WAS OVER AND A DISCUSSION WAS ON

WITHOUT A MOTHER  
IN A FEW MEN ARE  
LOST AND YET THEY  
HAVE NO RESPECT  
FOR WOMEN

HOW MEN TREAT  
WOMEN DEPENDS  
VERY MUCH ON THE  
WOMEN THEM-  
SELVES

HOW TRUE!



I HAVE DECIDED TO  
MARRY BIR SINGH  
THE PRINCE OF  
VALLABH PURA

HOW  
INTERESTING!



AND IF HE  
DOES NOT TREAT  
ME AS I  
EXPECT HIM  
TO



I'LL TEACH HIM  
TO DO SO BY SHOWING  
HIM THAT WOMEN CAN  
BE AS CLEVER, BRAVE  
AND STRONG AS MEN.

HEAR?  
HEAR?

A VAIN BOAST!  
BUT CHARMING  
NEVERTHELESS



B R SINGH WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE GARDENS WHEN HE MET A FEW MEN OUTSIDE

EXCUSE ME,  
WHAT IS THE  
NAME OF THIS  
PLACE?

THIS IS SHALYA,  
S R AND IT IS RULED  
BY RAJA YESARI  
SINGH



AND THEY  
WAS THAT  
SUNDERBAI?

IT BELONGS TO THE  
RAJAS, SUNDERBAI

AND  
SUNDERBAI  
SHAI  
BELONGS  
TO ME





A FEW DAYS LATER A PRIEST CAME TO THE PALACE OF RAJA KESARI SINGH

THE RAJA OF VALLABHIPURA  
KEEPS THE HAND OF YOUR  
DAUGHTER RAJUMARI  
SUNDERBAI FOR HIS SON  
RAJUMAR  
BIR SINGH



RAJA KESARI SINGH READILY ACCEPTED  
THE BRIDAL PRICE IT HAD COME FROM A  
FAMILY OF EQUAL RANK



AS SUNDERBAI WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR HER HUSBAND'S HOME

SUNDERBAI MY  
PREYOUS TH I HAVE  
USE IN MY MIND  
IF THE NEED  
ARISES

I WILL  
FATHER



SUNDERBAI WAS THEN BROUGHT TO BIR SINGH'S PLACE



THAT EVENING SUNDERBAI WAITED IN HER ROOM FOR BIR SINGH.



MANY DAYS PASSED BUT BIR SINGH DID NOT COME TO HER.



THEN ONE DAY -

PRINCESS, THERE IS A FESTIVAL AT THE TEMPLE. WHY DON'T YOU GO TO IT. IT WILL CHEER YOU UP.



AS SUNDERBAI LEFT FOR THE TEMPLE WITH HER MAIDS -

I'LL FOLLOW HER AND SEE WHAT SHE DOES.



INSIDE THE TEMPLE, SUNDERBAI PRAYED TO PARVATI.

OH GODDESS, BLESS MY HUSBAND IN EVERY WAY.



FINISHING HER PRAYERS SHE TURNED TO LEAVE WHEN —

IS THIS ALL  
YOU CAN  
DO?



WHERE IS THE STRENGTH  
AND VALOUR OF WHICH  
YOU BOASTED IN YOUR  
GARDEN?

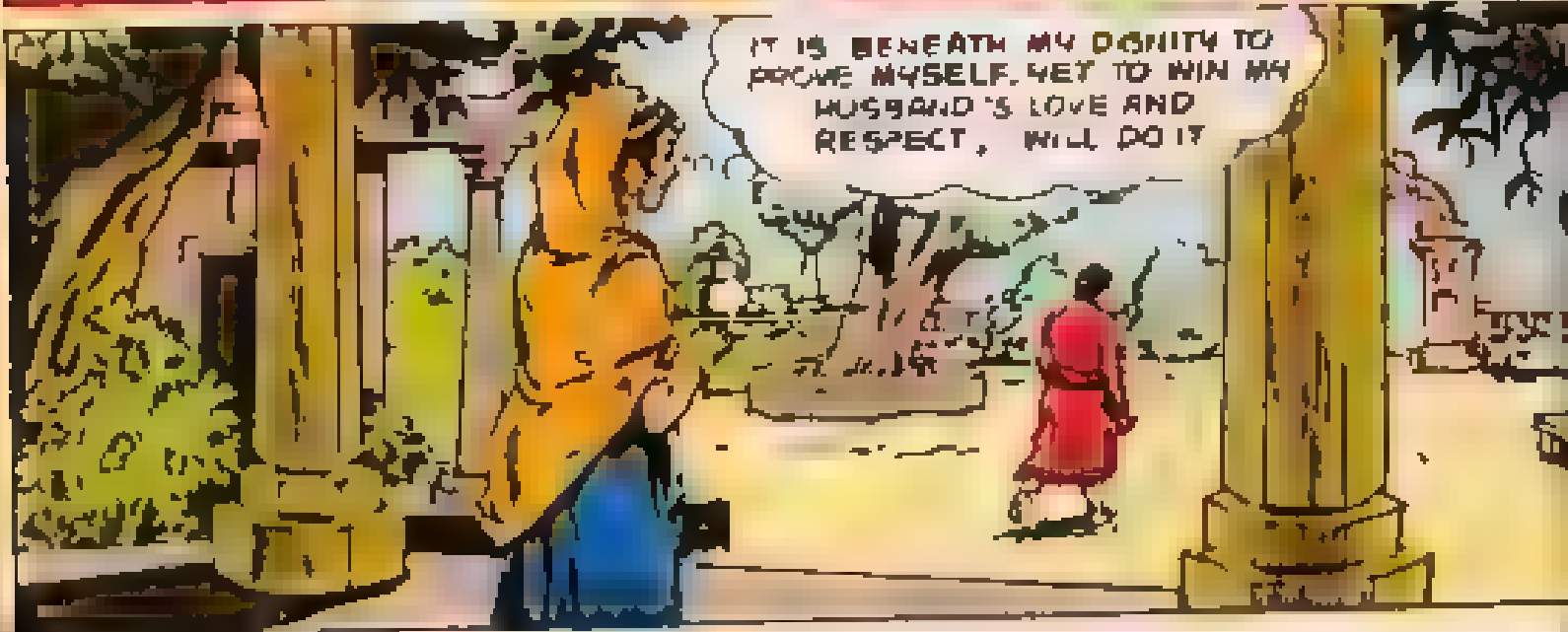
OH! SO  
HE HEARD  
ME THAT  
DAY



UNTIL YOU PROVE  
YOUR WORDS WILL  
NOT STEP INTO YOUR  
PALACE



IT IS BENEATH MY DIGNITY TO  
PROVE MYSELF. YET TO WIN MY  
HUSBAND'S LOVE AND  
RESPECT, WILL DO IT





FOR MANY DAYS SUNDERBAI  
PONDERED OVER THE MATTER  
FINALLY —

IF I AM TO ACHIEVE  
ANYTHING, I MUST  
GET AWAY FROM THE  
PALACE.



SHE THEN SENT FOR HER MAID

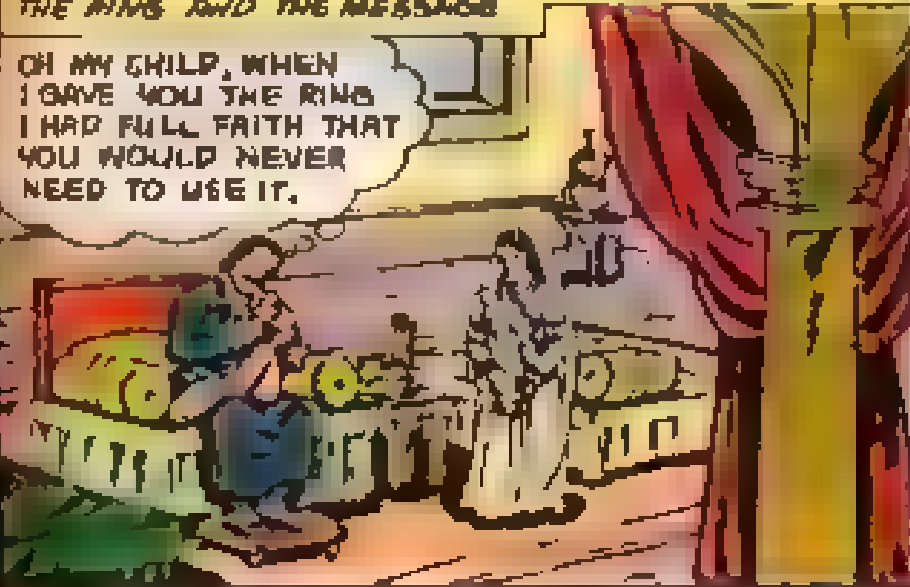
TAKE THIS RING  
TO MY FATHER AND  
TELL HIM TO  
REPLACE THE  
JEWEL

YES,  
PRINCESS



THE MAID WENT TO SHAIYA AND GAVE KESARI SINGH  
THE RING AND THE MESSAGE

OH MY CHILD, WHEN  
I GAVE YOU THE RING  
I HAD FULL FAITH THAT  
YOU WOULD NEVER  
NEED TO USE IT.

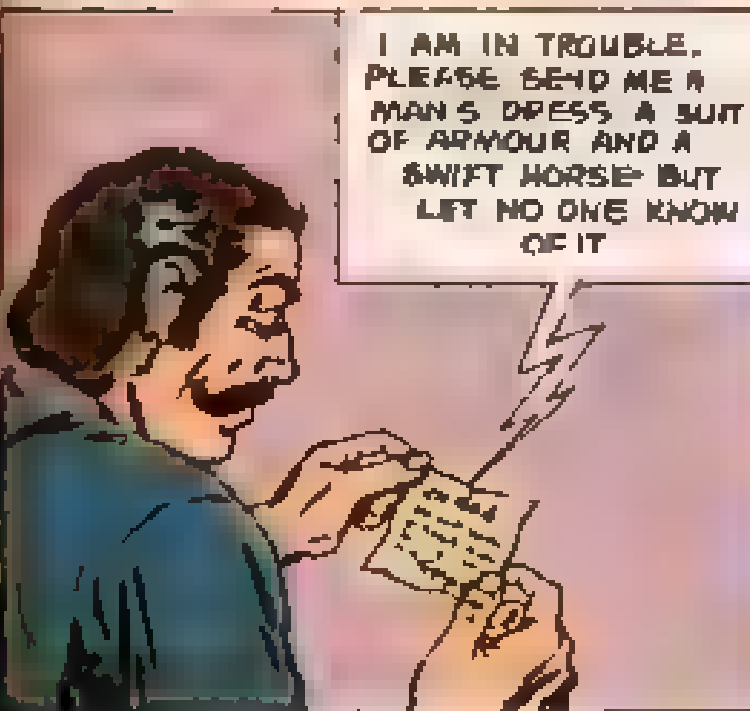


BUT AS THE KING REMOVED THE  
JEWEL —

A NOTE!



I AM IN TROUBLE.  
PLEASE SEND ME A  
MAN'S DRESS A SUIT  
OF ARMOUR AND A  
SWIFT HORSE BUT  
LET NO ONE KNOW  
OF IT



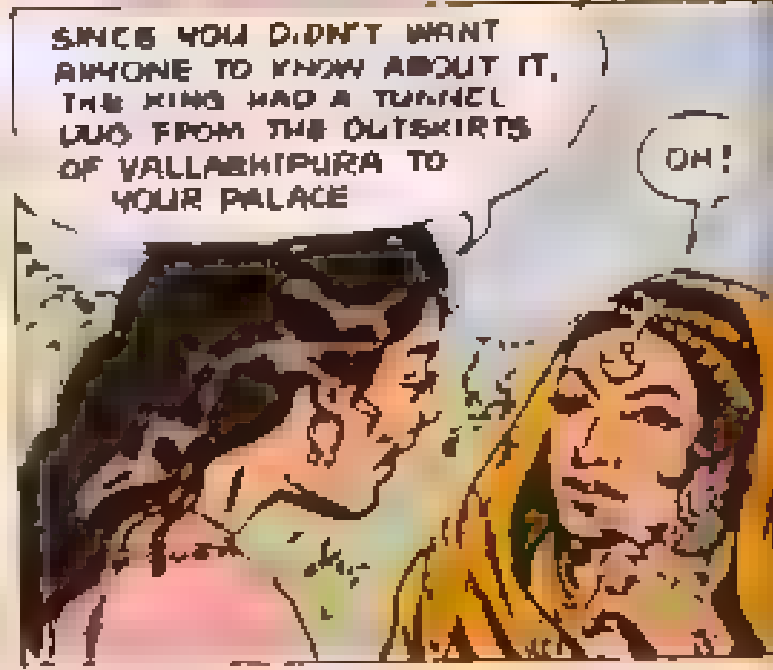
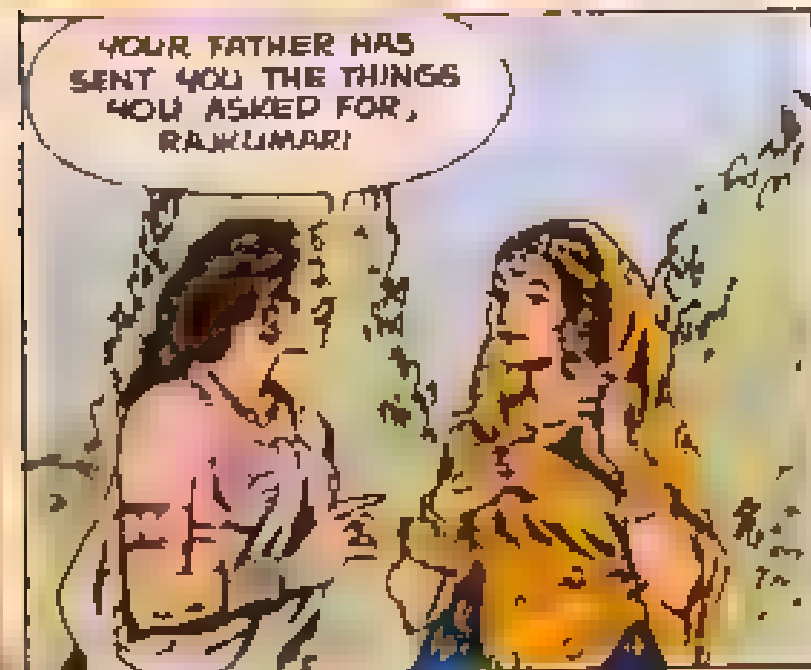
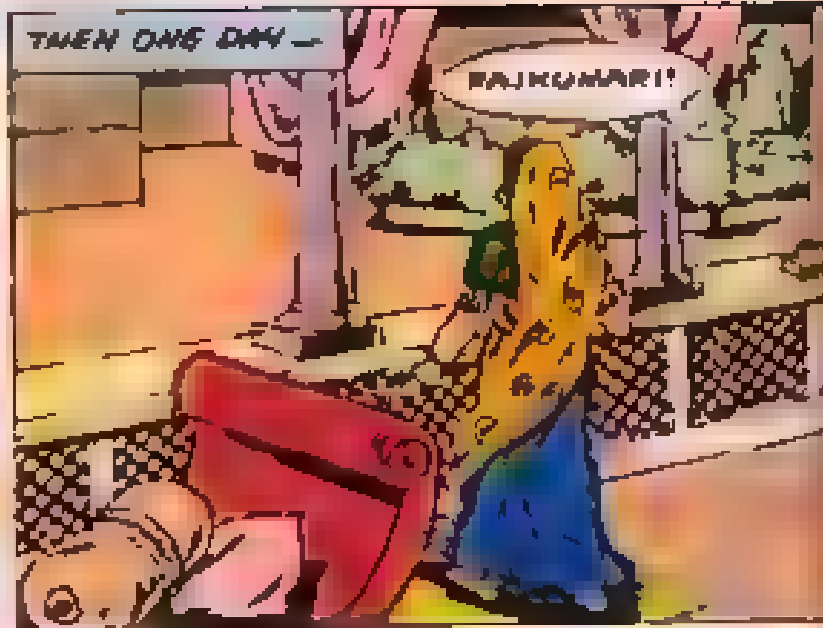
I MUST SEND  
HER THE THINGS  
SHE REQUIRES AND  
WITHOUT LETTING  
OTHERS KNOW.  
HA-HA-HA



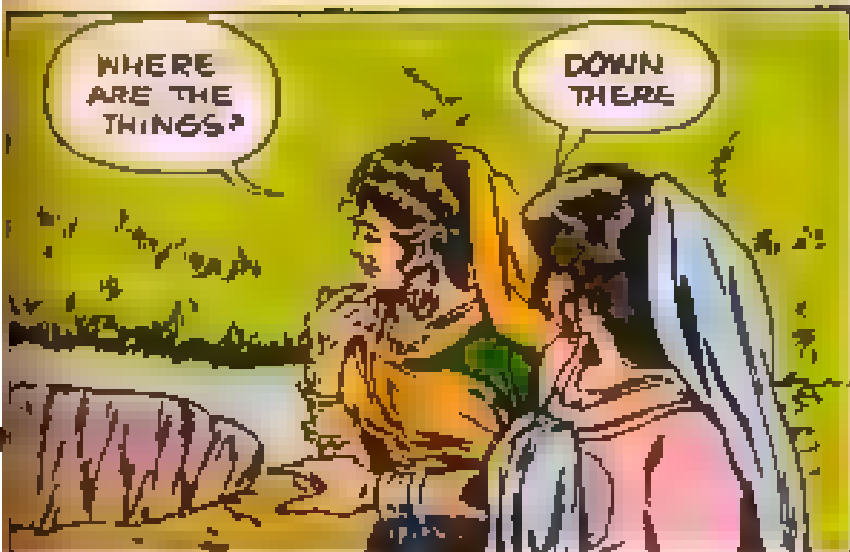
SUNDERAM IMPATIENTLY WAITED FOR HER FATHER'S RESPONSE.



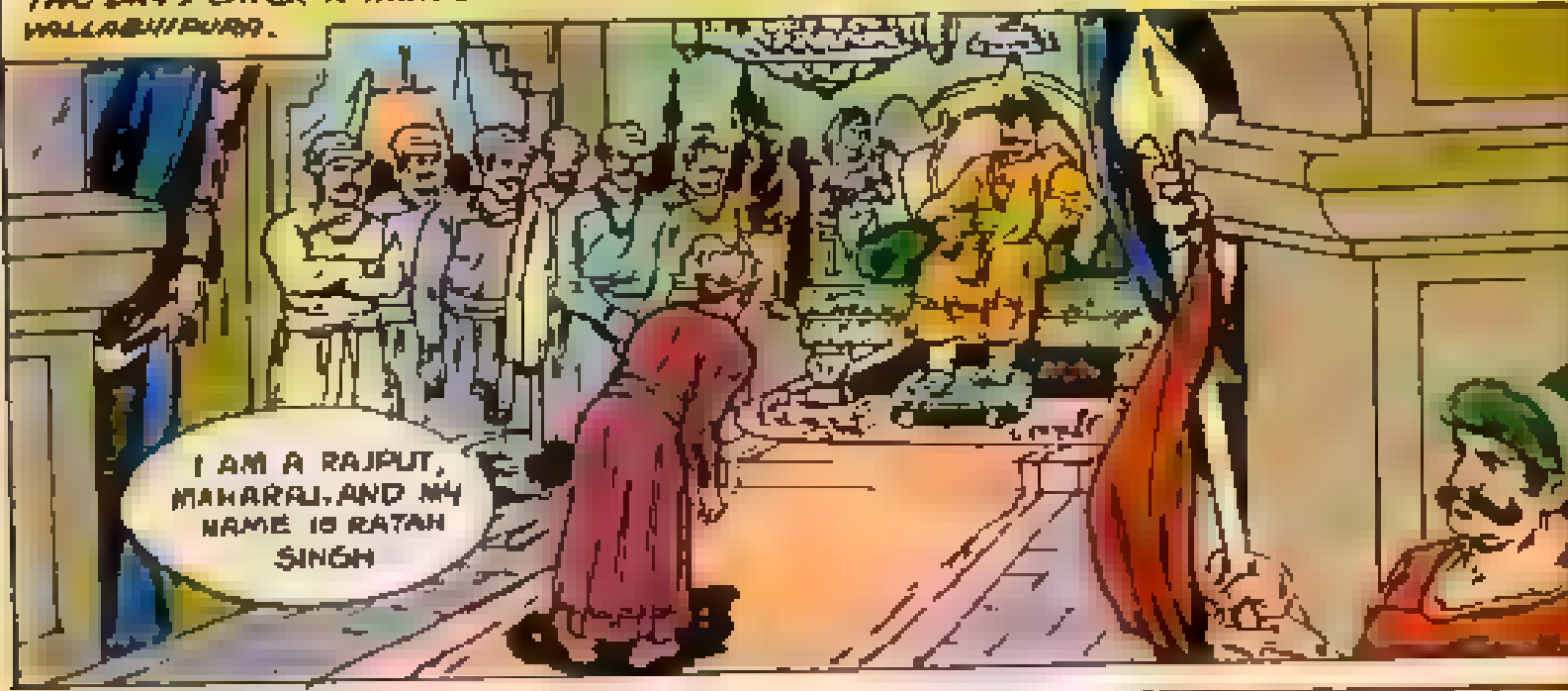
THEN ONE DAY -




SINCE YOU DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW ABOUT IT, THE KING HAD A TUNNEL Laid FROM THE OUTSKIRTS OF VALLABHIPURA TO YOUR PALACE




TWO DAYS LATER A HANDSOME YOUTH PRESENTED HIMSELF BEFORE THE RAJA OF VALLABHIPUR.



I AM A RAJPUT,  
MAHARAJA, AND MY  
NAME IS RATAN  
SINGH




I CANNOT REVEAL MY  
FATHER'S NAME, BECAUSE  
I HAVE QUARRELLED  
WITH HIM. I AM HERE  
IN SEARCH OF  
EMPLOYMENT



GIVE ME A  
CHANCE TO  
PROVE MY  
WORTH

THE RAJA WAS IMPRESSED BY THE CONFIDENCE AND BEARINGS OF THE YOUTH.



YOU SHALL TAKE A  
PLACE AMONG MY  
NOBLES,  
RATAN SINGH



RATAN SINGH SOON WON THE ADMIRATION OF THE RAJA AND BIP SINGH



YOU RID  
VERY WELL  
RATAN

I HAVE  
BEEN  
TRAINING  
BIP SINGH

OVER THE DAYS BIP SINGH DEVELOPED  
A DEEP AFFECTION FOR THE YOUTH

AND ONE DAY HE TOLD RATAN ALL ABOUT  
SUNDERBAI.

ARE YOU IN  
LOVE WITH ANY  
OTHER  
RAJPUT WOMAN?

NO! NO! I LOVE  
SUNDERBAI



AND ONLY HER  
BUT I WANT TO  
TEST HER TO  
SEE IF SHE  
LIVES UP TO  
HER BOAST

DO YOU  
THINK SHE  
WILL?



IF SHE IS A TRUE  
RAJPUT WOMAN,  
SHE WILL

ONE DAY —

MAHARAJ, A LION  
IS CREATING HAVOC ON  
THE OUTSKIRTS OF  
THE CITY

ALL THE NOBLES  
HAVE TRIED BUT THEY  
HAVE NOT BEEN  
ABLE TO CAPTURE  
OR KILL IT

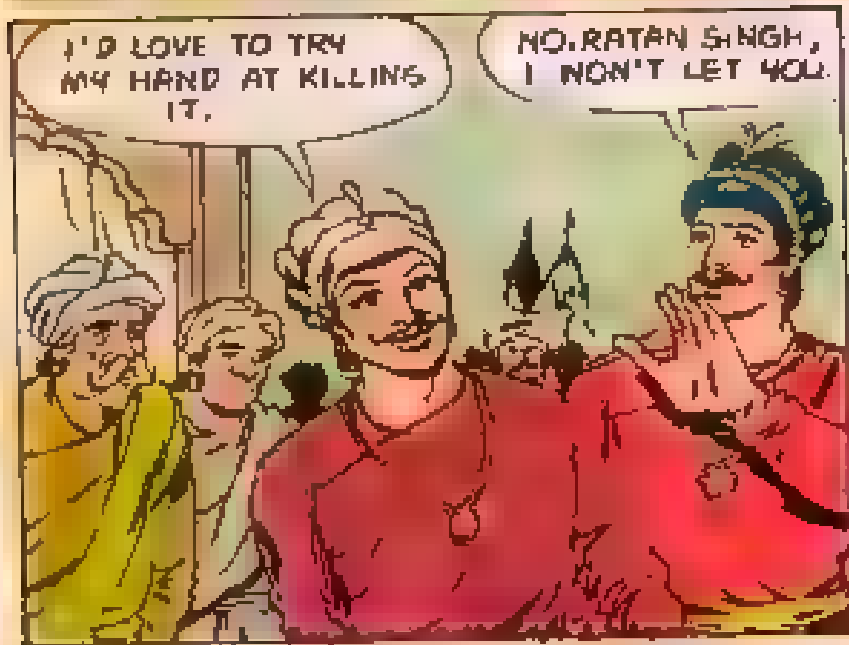


RATAN  
SINGH ..



I'D LOVE TO TRY  
MY HAND AT KILLING  
IT,

NO, RATAN SINGH,  
I WON'T LET YOU



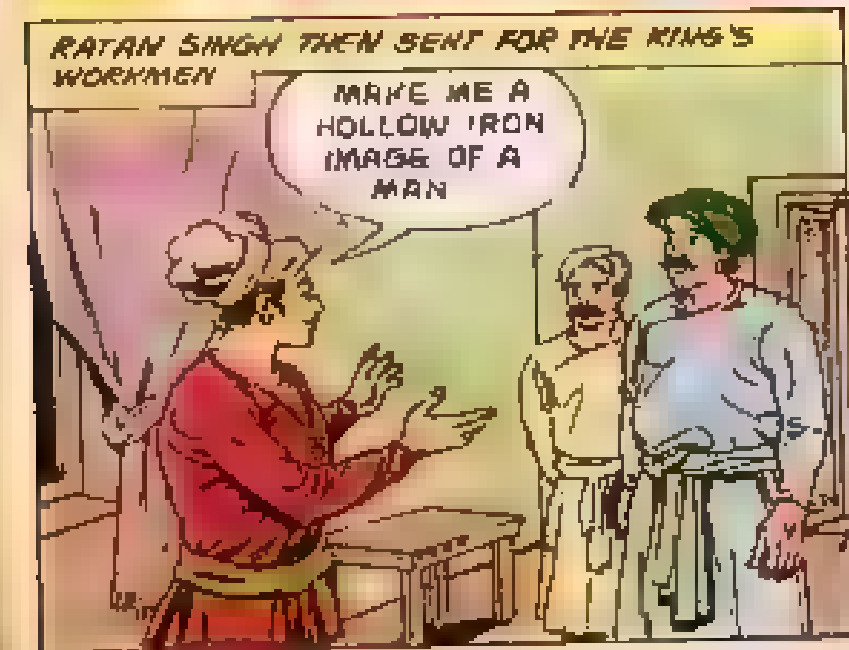
HE WILL AND  
I AM SURE HE  
WILL SUCCEED

THANK  
YOU,  
MAHARAJ



RATAN SINGH THEN SENT FOR THE KING'S  
WORKMEN

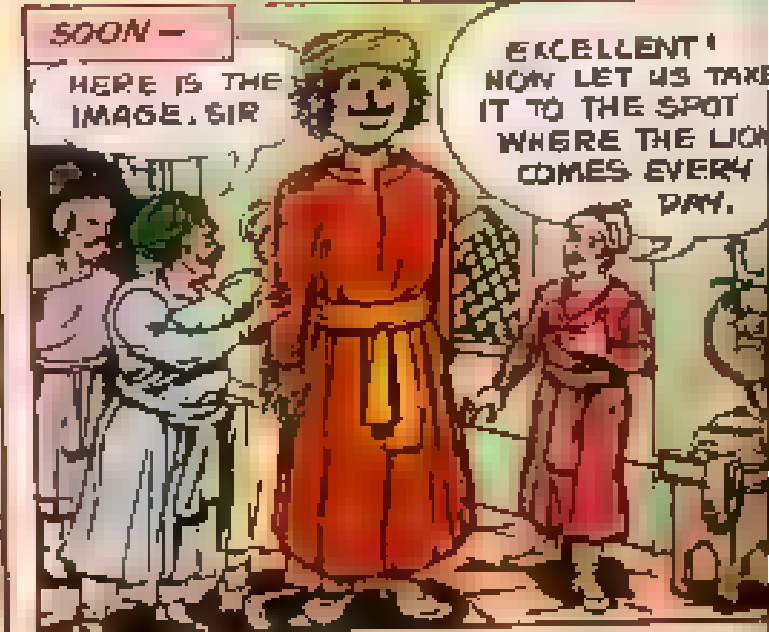
MAKE ME A  
HOLLOW IRON  
IMAGE OF A  
MAN



SOON —

HERE IS THE  
IMAGE, SIR

EXCELLENT!  
NOW LET US TAKE  
IT TO THE SPOT  
WHERE THE LION  
COMES EVERY  
DAY,



WHEN THE IMAGE WAS INSTALLED RATAN SINGH SENT THE MEN AWAY AND GOT INTO IT



AT MIDNIGHT THE LION CAME



IT RUSHED AT THE IMAGE AND TRIED IN VAIN TO KNEEL IT DOWN



RATAN SINGH WAITED FOR THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK WHEN IT CAME HE SLIPPED OUT



AND WITH A SINGLE BLOW OF HIS SWORD KILLED THE BEAST



THE RAJA WAS VERY PLEASED

RATAN SINGH,  
I HONOUR YOU WITH  
THIS ROBE AND A GRANT  
OF LAND FOR YOUR  
COURAGEOUS ACT



ONE DAY THE RAJA DECIDED TO GO TO A FAR-OFF JUNGLE TO HUNT.

ISN'T  
SIR SINGH  
JOINING  
US?

NO HE IS  
NOT FEELING  
WELL.

IT WAS WHEN THE PARTY WAS RESTING  
THAT A HORSEMAN CAME RIDING TOWARD  
THEM.

MAHARAJ,  
ALL IS  
LOST!

WHAT ARE YOU  
SAYING? WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED?

MAHARAJ, AFTER  
YOU LEFT WE WERE  
SUDDENLY ATTACKED  
VALLABHIPURA HAS  
BEEN TAKEN OVER  
BY MARAUDERS.

AND . AND  
SIR SINGH HAS BEEN  
TAKEN CAPTIVE

NOT ON  
MY  
SON!

MAHARAJ, TAKE HEART.  
I WILL WIN BACK  
VALLABHIPURA AND  
BRING SIR SINGH  
TO YOU

HOW CAN YOU  
DO THAT  
SINGLEHANDED?

RAJA KESARI  
SINGH IS MY  
KINSMAN I WILL  
TAKE HIS HELP

RAVAN SINGH RODE OUT  
TOWARDS BHALYA...



AND SOON RETURNED WITH THE PICK OF  
HRA KESARI SINGH'S LANCERS.

YOU LAUNCH A MCKY ATTACK ON  
THE CITY FROM THREE SIDES  
I TAKE CARE OF THE  
REST

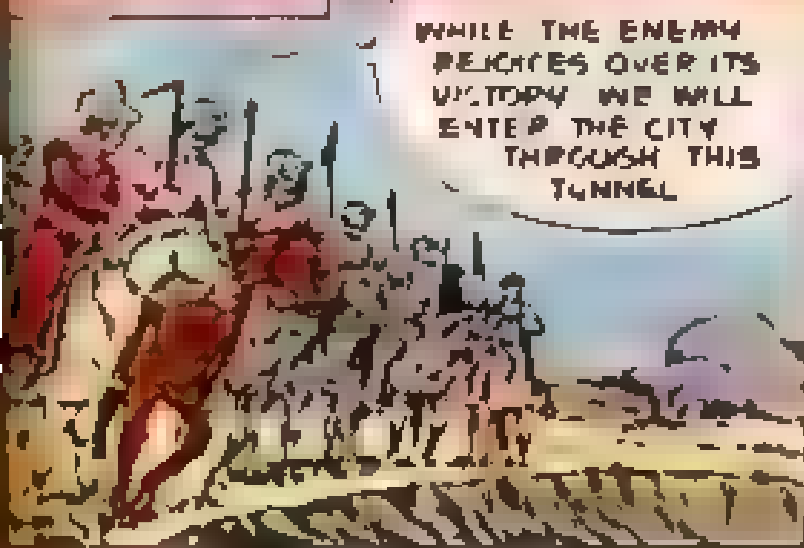


WHILE THE THREE GROUPS OF LANCERS  
GOT BUSY



BATAH SINGH LED HIS GROUP TO THE ENTRANCE  
OF THE TUNNEL

WHILE THE ENEMY  
REJOICES OVER ITS  
VICTORY WE WILL  
ENTER THE CITY  
THROUGH THIS  
TUNNEL



INSIDE THE FORT THE INVADERS WERE  
CELEBRATING THEIR VICTORY

NOT AN ARROW  
WAS SHOT! NOT A  
DROP OF BLOOD  
SHED!

NEVER WAS  
VICTORY SO  
EASILY  
GAINED!



EH?

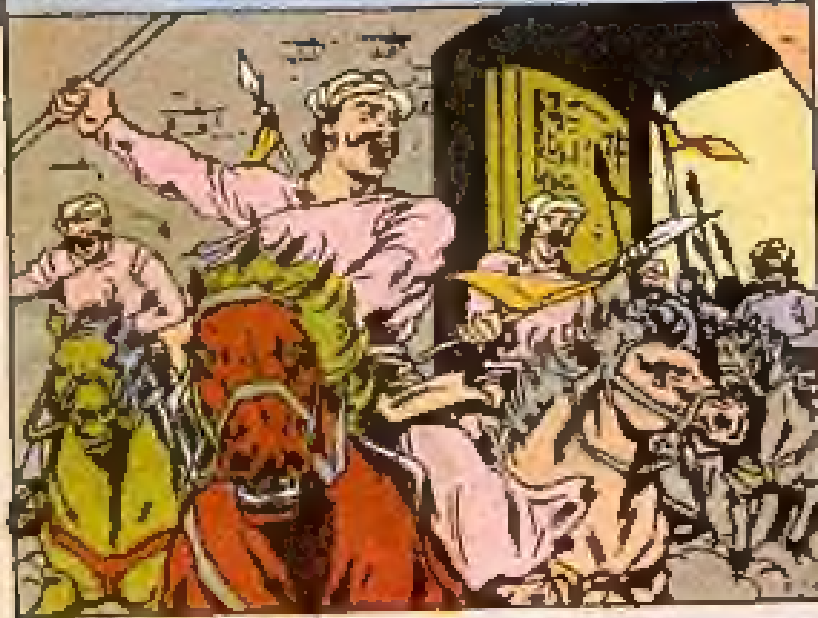
NOR LOST  
E THER!



DON'T MOVE! YOU ARE  
SURROUNDED!



RATAN SINGH THREW OPEN THE GATES OF THE FORT. MORE TROOPS POURED IN...



...AND THE ENEMY WAS SOON VANQUISHED.

RATAN SINGH THEN FREED BIR SINGH...



...AND TOOK HIM TO HIS FATHER.

RATAN, HOW CAN I REWARD YOU FOR SAVING MY KINGDOM AND MY HEIR.

IT WAS MY DUTY, MAHARAJ.



MAHARAJ, I WOULD LIKE TO MEET SOME OLD FRIENDS WHO HAVE COME TO SEE ME. MAY I...

YOU MAY GO, RATAN.

BUT BE BACK SOON.



BIR SINGH WAITED IMPATIENTLY FOR RATAN SINGH. AT LAST HE WENT TO LOOK FOR HIM.



AH! I WILL ASK THEM THEY MIGHT KNOW.



# QUIZ-17

INDIA

Compiled by: Swarn Khandpur

Illustrated by: S.K. Parab



**A** "Mound of the civilization flourished here"

**C** To which community do these artifacts belong?



**B** Which community worships Jhulelal—God of Water?

**D** Lake of Ujjain



## DID YOU KNOW...

...that decorated beads of varied shapes and materials have been found in all Harappan sites?

...that some beads of gold found are smaller than a pin-head in size and the steatite (soft stone) ones are as thin as paper and are referred to as "water beads"?

...that some of the beads measure one to three millimetres in length and one millimetre in diameter?

QUIZ-16 (Answers) :

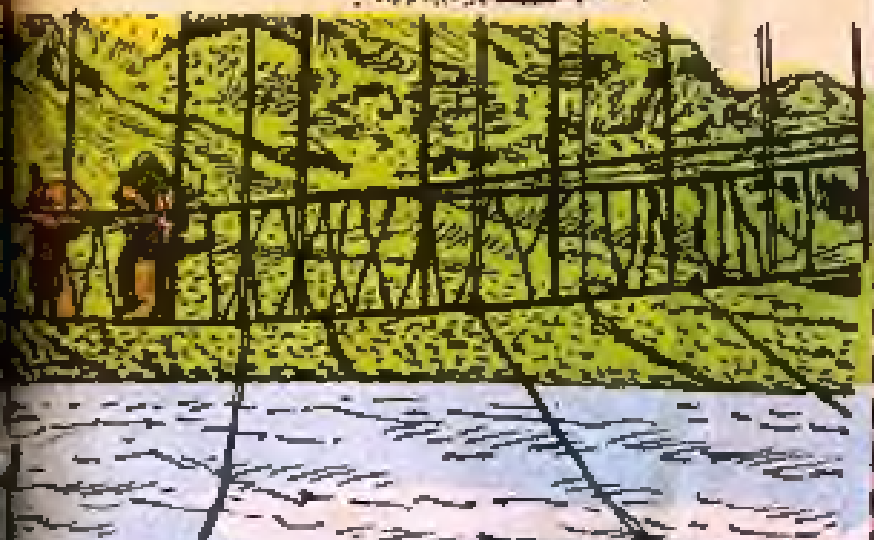
A. Kaveri

B. Rameswaram





What is the local name of a place where a great battle was fought more than 4000 years ago. What was its name?



What is the name of a suspension bridge. Near which town is this bridge?

#### Rules:

1. The first fifty all-correct entries will each win a prize of Rs. 10.
2. The remaining all-correct entries will each win a colourful picture post card.
3. The decision of the judges is final and binding.
4. Mail your entries, (entry form given below) to:

AMAR CHITRA KATHA QUIZ CONTEST  
Post Bag No. 16542  
Cumballa Hill P.O., Bombay-400 026.

## Quiz-17

### ENTRY FORM

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Age : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

State : \_\_\_\_\_

Pin Code : \_\_\_\_\_

### MY ANSWERS

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

The last date for receiving  
entries 31. 3. 1985